Mabee, William Joseph (Demonstrator in Obstetrics) June - Sept 1919 (062)

OFFICE HOURS:
3.30 TO 5.30 P.M.
AND BY APPOINTMENT

TELEPHONE NORTH 6262

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Dr. W. J. Mabee

468 CHURCH STREET
ONE BLOCK NORTH OF CARLTON STREET

Toronto, June 8th. *1919.*

To The President of Toronto University,

Toronto,

Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter received and I wish to thank you for informing me of Dr. Watson's intentions, as I was not aware of them. I am very sorry that Dr. Watson will not recommend me for re-appointment as Demonstrator in the Dept. of Gynarcology, as I am fond of Academic work.

I hope you will permit me to ask the reason that I am not to be recommended and allow me to explain why I am sorry.

In the year 1911 after having completed three years as House Surgeon to the Toronto General Hospital, I was asked by Dr.Adam Wright and Dr. McIlwraith to accept an appointment in Obstetrics. At first I declined owing to not being in a financial position to begin practice in Toronto, Later I decided to accept the kind offer of Dr. Wright and Dr. McIlwraith. Fortunately I was successful in building a practice and in 1912 when the Department of Obstetrics was combined with the Dept. of Gynarcology with Dr. Watson as Head of both , I decided that as soon as possible to take a Post Graduate course in Gynarcology in order that I might be more efficient in the re-arranged Dept.

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Owing to my seniors in the Dept. being anxious for every opportunity of doing Women's Surgery in the Dept. I saw there was very little chance for me to get the necessary training so I interviewed Dr. Watson as to the best steps to take, the result being that I dropped a practice of six thousand per year and arranged to go to New York and London for two years to do Post-Graduate work in Gynarcology.

One month after arrangements were made by me to do Post-Graduate work, the war begun and I decided to remain for a time doing what work I could at the Toronto General Hospital and try for overseas with a Military Hospital. I took my commission and was one of the first to sign overseas with the University Base Hospital.

The applications for appointments on the University Base Hospital were many especially from the Heads and Seniors of each Dept. and Dr. Watson asked me if I would remain at the Toronto General Hospital giving all my time to help carry on the work of the Dept. and in return I would receive an opportunity of doing Gynarcological Surgery.

I gave all my time for two and a half years giving clinics, attending to the out-door patient Dept. assisting at operations, doing pathology, but was not given the opportunity of operating as promised me.

Knowing the difficulties that Dr. Watson had to contend with in the Dept. by going overseas I made no strenuous objection to the

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treatment I received, but hoped that sometime when the war was over I would be given what was due me, as I had followed the wishes of my superiors in the Dept. during a strenuous time.

I might also state that during this two and a half years, I offered my services to the A.D.M.S. (Dr. Marlow) twice and was told to stay at the work I was doing.

Therefore, you will notice Sir, that I have sacrificed a practice and a splendid chance in New York, for two and a half years working each day with no instructor learning what I could; never receiving the opportunity promised me of doing Women's Surgery and made no strenuous objection as the Dean of the Faculty knows.

During this two years I did no practice, but gave all my time doing the work of four members of our Dept. that were overseas, as Dr. Watson explained to me that he wished to make no more appointments than possible while the war was on. The remuneration I received was Two hundred and fifty dollars per year from the University.

When Dr. Watson returned from overseas, I resumed practice owing to not being in a financial position to continue giving all my time in the Dept. Owing to not having an opportunity of doing women's surgery under Dr. Marlow as was promised, I was not in the position hoped for. Had I been able to afford it, then I would of gone to New York and taken the course I intended five years previous. However, I decided to return to practice until such time as I could

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afford it, as it has always been my contention that no Doctor should do surgery (except in emergencies) without first being able to do it well in the presence of an experienced surgeon and am sure that if oppprtunities promised me by letter from Dr. Watson had been given or if I had of gone to New Uork for two years that I would of now been efficient in Women's Surgery whereas I have had no opportunity whatsoever and do not intend to attempt such until I have had.

During the eight years in the Dept. I have always done as I was told as near as possible and have never received a word of criticism, have asked on different occasions if my work was alright and always received a favorable reply.

In December of the last session I was taken ill with Influenza and followed by myocarditus and on the advice of Dr. A. McPhedran and Dr. Ross I wintered in the South returning in April fully recovered but sorry to be absent so long from work in the Dept. Before leavong for the South, I notified by letter Dr. Watson of my misfortune.

Owing to the early death of my parents I have had to earn everything required to put me through High School. Pharmacy Medicine, Hospital training and establishing a practice. I worked eight years for one of the leading Drug firms of this city, reaching the highest position in the firm, and moreover without a word of complaint between the employer and myself.

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As House Surgeon for nearly three years to the Toronto General Hospital, I became Senior House man and on different occasions was entrusted with position as Supt. in Dr. Brown's absence, all without ever hearing a word of criticism as to my work.

In conclusion I hope you will be able to see why I am so sorry to part with an appointment in the University that I have had to work harder for, than any other member of the Dept.

Trusting that you will give this your kind consideration and if possible have Dr. Watson reconsider my re appointment,

Yours sincerely,

W. J. Mabee

P.S.- If you care to see me, I will call at your office at whatever time that is convenient to you.

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June 11th, 1919

Dr. H. J. Cody,

468 Church Street,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. Cody:

I have just received your letter which I have read with great interest. Dr. Watson is now overseas, but when he comes back I shall give it to him and talk the matter over with him again.

Yours sincerely,

President.

September 23rd, 1919

Dr. R. J. Rabge,
169 Church Street,
Toronto.

Dear Dr. Rabge:

I have had a conversation with Dr. Watson since his return from Garland with regard to your appointment. He is strongly of opinion that cannot recommend you for a position in the University which would involve also a place in the Hospital. In view of the arguments that he has brought forward in making his decision I feel that I cannot be otherwise than acquiesce.

Yours sincerely,

President.